ABOUT BURNT WORK

Burning Decorative Designs on Wood, Leather, Ivory, Paper, Glass, Etc. The mode of burning designs into or

apon wood, leather, etc., has been varioursly termed, as pyrography, poker work and burnt work. The word "pyrography" means writing or etching with fire, but burnt decoration is not always etching; it more often looks like painting and relief work combined. term "poker work" was applied where heated pokers were the instruments used, and it cannot be properly applied to the modern work, which is done with a regular cautery or electrical ap-paratus. The name "burnt work," however, applies equally well under all cfroumstances, being always appropriate, no matter how the heat is applied, and The Delineator thus names the art in giving the following information: The merits of burned work are many,

the chief one being its great durability, As a substitute for wood carving, it is satisfactory. The work has both form and color, a great variety of tints being possible, from deep black to the lightest shades of brown, and it is sometimes areated like bas relief in large decora tions on wood.

After a design is prepared it can be excuted with astonishing rapidity. The variety of strokes is nulimited, ranging



from time ones that suggest etching to those that resemble the broad, blended strokes of a brush, the style of stroke in every case depending on the artist's purpose, and points can be obtained in sizes to suit all needs.

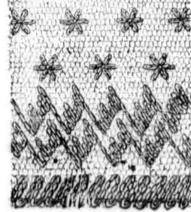
There is an idea affeat that this work is commonly done with heated dies, like those used for stamping packing boxes, etc. This belief is erroneous. The burning must be done freehand to produce really artistic results. True, dies are used, and often with good effect, in some styles of work. Indeed there is a factory near New York where this so called burned work is quite extensively done. It takes an artist to do full justice to burnt work, but any one who can draw with moderate skill will be able to derive much pleasure and profit from a study of it. Designs can be readily ransferred if the worker is unable to draw them without aid.

The tools with which the work is now done differ radically from those employed even a dozen years ago, when the pokers were still in vogue. The principal tool looks like an ordinary lead pencil, but is a trifle larger. In place of the lead is a hollow point of platinum, which, being heated, is used like a penthick handle protecting the hand.

This work is now more accessible to women than when heavy pokers and the great heat of a furnace were the necessary features of "burnt art." Leather of any color, texture or finish can be used. The possibilities of this material were demonstrated at the World's fair, motably by a pair of leather curtains hanging in the doorway of the California room of the Woman's building. Though leather is more expensive than libralei, Kaual. wood, it is highly favored by workers in this art, which is also applied to ivery, mapor and glass.

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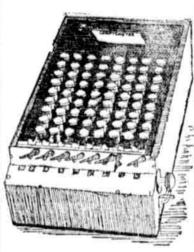
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